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Berrien County Health Department announces summer schedule for Pre-K and preschool dental, hearing and vision screenings

A few simple screenings can set a child up for success on the first day of school. That's why the Berrien County Health Department offers free dental, hearing and vision clinics throughout the summer starting June 8.

The screenings are required by state law for all children entering kindergarten at public and private schools.

The BCHD clinics are free and open to all Berrien County residents. Parents and guardians of children entering preschool are also encouraged to get their student screened for dental, hearing and vision.

"Hearing and vision issues in young children often go unnoticed, but they can significantly affect learning and classroom participation," said Melisa Jordan, BCHD's hearing and vision coordinator. "Early screening helps identify concerns before school begins, giving children the support they need to succeed from day one."

Summer clinics are available 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1:30-4:30 p.m. by appointment at locations across Berrien County. The dates and locations are:

- Monday, June 8 – Brandywine Innovation Academy, 1830 South 3rd St., Niles
- Tuesday, June 9 – Hollywood Elementary, 143 W. John Beers Road, Stevensville
- Monday, June 15 – Roosevelt Elementary, 2000 Eldorado Drive, Stevensville
- Tuesday, June 23 – Benton Charter Township Hall, 1725 Territorial Road, Benton Charter Township
- Tuesday, June 30 – Coloma Junior High, 302 W. St. Joseph St., Coloma
- Tuesday, July 28 – Lybrook Elementary, 6238 W. Main St., Eau Claire
- Monday, Aug. 10 – Northside Child Development Center, 2020 N. 5th St., Niles –
- Thursday, Aug. 13 – Stewart Elementary, 2750 Orchard Lane, Stevensville

To schedule an appointment, visit www.bchdhearingvision.org or call Melisa Jordan at 269-926-7121, ext. 5293.

The dental screening takes about five minutes and involves a dental hygienist briefly looking at the child's teeth and gums and then noting any findings. If any dental issues are discovered, BCHD provides a referral for a dental exam at the family's dentist of choice.

The hearing screening takes about three minutes and features six sounds for the child to identify. If any hearing issues are discovered, BCHD provides a referral for a hearing exam at the family's health care provider or the Berrien Springs Public Schools Hearing Center.

The vision screening takes five to 10 minutes and features four shapes for the child to identify. If any vision issues are discovered, BCHD provides a referral for an eye exam at the family's eye doctor of choice.

BCHD will also provide dental, hearing and vision screenings as well as school-required immunizations at its annual Back-to-School Bash in August. The outdoor Back-to-School Bash will take place 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25 at BCHD's Benton Harbor office, 2149 E. Napier Ave, and Thursday, Aug. 27 at its Niles office, 1205 N. Front St. Walk-ins are welcome at these events. — STAFF REPORTS

It took me a long time to be calm.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Woman paralyzed by tree falling on moving ehicle

BY STAN MADDUX

A La Porte woman is paralyzed from the waist down after a large tree fell on her moving vehicle while driving to work last month.

Kaity Schultz, 37, on Monday remained at Memorial Hospital in South Bend where she was airlifted following the May 18 accident.

Her husband, Chris, said she's waiting to be transferred to a rehabilitation facility in Chicago where her stay is expected to be for at least four weeks.

"We're just waiting on an open bed to go there, so, that's good news," he said.

Mr. Schultz said his wife is not able to use her legs due to paralysis from the crushing injuries to her spine damaging her spinal cord.

If not for that and extreme pain that's now subsiding, Mr. Schultz said it would be hard for anyone to tell she had been in an accident.

"No trouble talking. No trouble eating. She really has no other injuries," he said.

Schultz said his wife dropped off their four-year old son, J.T., at Door Prairie Christian Daycare and School in La Porte and began heading to work for an insurance company where she's a customer service manager in Michigan City.

According to La Porte County Police, the woman was northbound on Fail Road just outside the La Porte city limits when a tree along the west side of the road was uprooted apparently by the close to 20-mile-per-hour winds at the time.

The tree landed on top of her 2012 GMC Acadia and blocked both lanes of travel.

Kankakee Township Volunteer Fire Department Capt. Zach Rosiuk said the roof of the SUV was partially smashed in on the passenger side by the tree, which was lifted off the vehicle by a tow truck equipped with a boom.

Emergency responders were then able to safely cut into the vehicle and free the woman from the wreckage.

She was loaded into a medical helicopter that landed in a nearby field and flown to the hospital in South Bend for advanced care.

La Porte County Police Maj. Pat Cicero, a 26-year veteran of the department, held her hand and kept giving her words of encouragement during the entire close to two hours it took to free her from the SUV.

Mr. Schultz said his wife was awake the whole time and talked to the officer, who later paid her a visit in her hospital room and brought her flowers.

"As soon as he walked in, she knew right away who he was. She was real grateful he showed up to wish her well," he said.

At the time of the accident, Mr. Schultz was in Reno, Nevada taking part in a national bowling tournament.

He was notified about the crash and his wife being prepared for surgery not long after the accident happened and quickly booked a flight home.

Schultz said he didn't know much more about her condition until he was at her bedside in the intensive care unit about 12 grueling hours later.

He said his wife struggled a lot emotionally the first couple of days because the life-changing accident was such a fluke and it happened after her mother recently lost a long battle with lung cancer.

Schultz said her spirits have since lifted, though, from many family members and friends reaching out with words of support.

"Mentally, she is in a really good place right now. She's motivated to do the rehab. The pain is not as bad as it was. Things are looking positive mentally," he said.

Mr. Schultz said doctors are not giving her much of a chance at walking yet haven't ruled out the possibility.

Once she returns home, he said his wife wants to get back to a normal life as much as possible in a wheelchair by attending her son's t-ball games again, driving and returning to work.

"The end goal is whether it's a month or two or maybe a couple of years would be to finally walk again," he said.

A Go Fund Me page set up to help the family with medical expenses had raised over $96,000 as of Monday afternoon.

In America, one must be something, but in Italy one can simply be.
— Pietros Maneos

Officer keeps improving in what could be long recovery from shooting

BY STAN MADDUX

A La Porte County Police officer continues to show progress in his early recovery from three gunshots, but his future could include a fight with paralysis.

Those are among the new details obtained from the case filed against the alleged gunman, Sharod Grafton,Jr., 22, of Chicago.

Grafton is charged in La Porte Superior Court 1 with Level 1 felony attempted murder, Level 5 felony battery and Level 6 felony auto theft.

According to the charging information filed with the court, a preliminary examination of Deputy Jon Samuelson indicated he suffered paralysis from the chest down from a bullet lodged in his spine.

Regardless, his uncle, Greg Samuelson, said it's an "absolute miracle" his nephew survived and has made this much progress in his recovery from the May 22 shooting at Franciscan Health outside Michigan City.

Samuelson said his nephew is talking now and was paid a visit on his 34th birthday Monday from Bosco, a K-9 dog he handles for the sheriff's office.

The officer remains at Memorial Hospital in South Bend where his condition remained critical but stable.

He said his nephew was also doing well enough to be taken outside this week to enjoy the sunshine and fresh air.

"We can feel the prayers. I can feel the prayers. I just know he's in God's hands and that God saved his life," he said.

The charging information shows Dr. Scott Thompson, who operated on Samuelson, told investigators one of the bullets entered behind his left ear and while passing through the neck became lodged in the T-1 vertebrate in his upper spine.

He also mentioned early signs of paralysis.

Nevertheless, Samuelson said his nephew is feeling things when touched in areas like his feet and will undergo further testing.

"It's going to be a long road and they're going to do the therapies. I'm sure Jon is going to recover. He's a fighter," he said.

Police said Samuelson about 6:30 a.m. was on duty and on his way to a training session when he stopped to help Grafton, who he believed was a stranded motorist in the area of Indiana 2 and 900 West near Westville.

For unknown reasons, Grafton asked to be taken to the hospital.

Samuelson drove him to Franciscan Health and left him at the front desk of the emergency room.

He returned about a minute later when informed the vehicle Grafton was driving belonged to his mother, who reported the vehicle stolen to Chicago Police after her son took her keys at gunpoint earlier that morning, according to the charging information.

When Samuelson tried placing him in handcuffs, Grafton physically resisted and displayed a handgun, which he pointed at the officer.

Samuelson wrapped his arms around Grafton and they both fell to the ground.

During the struggle, the officer trying to gain control of the gun and Grafton tumbled through an open door into a triage area of the hospital where Samuelson was shot in the shoulder, according to the charging information.

Police said a nurse heard the wounded Samuelson yell multiple times that he needed a security officer then two more shots were fired, including one to the neck delivered at point blank range.

Surveillance video of the shooting reveals Grafton then stood over Samuelson lying motionless on the floor and pointed the gun directly at him.

No recoil of the gun was spotted in the video, but police later discovered the gun was not able to deliver a fourth shot from being jammed.

Surveillance video also shows Grafton attempting to enter the officer's police vehicle, but it was locked.

He then took cover inside the open bed of a pick-up truck belonging to a hospital employee in the parking lot.

Less than a minute later, Grafton took off running into a nearby wooded area where he was soon captured without further incident.

Samuelson, an 8th grade science teacher at La Porte Middle School, said his nephew, a 12-year member of the sheriff's office, was in great physical shape, taking part in marathons and other similar events.

He said his nephew always wanted to be a police officer since he was a child.

His father, Doug Samuelson, is a retired Michigan City Police officer who was working security at the hospital when he was shot.

His brother, Joshua, is an officer in downstate Zionsville.

His late grandfather, Gene Samuelson, was police chief in La Porte during the 1990's.

Ironically, perhaps, Samuelson's great-grandfather, Thomas Ciecka, was a police officer in La Porte when he died nearly a year after one of his legs was mangled when hit by a vehicle while directing traffic in the early 1960's.

Samuelson said his death was attributed to a blood clot that formed as a result of the collision.

Over $125,000 has been raised on a GoFundMe page to help Samuelson and his family during his recovery.

There have been other fund raisers, including one at La Porte Middle School that generated about $2,000.

"The support has been outstanding," he said.

Zookeeper seriously hurt in wolf attack

An attack by wolves at Washington Park Zoo in Michigan City Wednesday morning resulted in two employees being taken to the hospital.

Michigan City Police Capt. Kevin Urbanczyk said the most seriously hurt victim, a 39 year old woman, suffered numerous injuries across her entire body.

Michigan City Fire Department training officer William Sonntag assisted with treating her wounds before she was transported by ambulance to Franciscan Health hospital.

"She was alert and conscious but, as you can imagine, in a great amount of pain. Happy to be alive," he said.

Sonntag said the other female zookeeper suffered a single bite wound to one of her arms.

About 8 a.m., emergency responders were called to the zoo at the city's lakefront and found two wolves secured in small cages and howling in different areas of the exhibit.

The most seriously injured woman had already made her way out of the exhibit and was on the floor.

Sonntag said the other zookeeper was still inside the exhibit with a third howling wolf.

Two firefighters rescued her by climbing on the roof of an adjacent building and lowering a ladder into the exhibit.

"As soon as the ladder touched the ground, she was climbing up," he said.

How the attack was able to occur remains investigation.

Sonntag said it happened after one the zookeepers doing something inside the exhibit asked the other woman to come in and help.

"Things went downhill from there," he said. — STAN MADDUX

SCHOLASTICS

School board approves hiring of high school principal

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education approved the hiring of Emily Zablocki-Kohler as high school principal at their Wednesday, May 27, meeting, pending the completion of a background check.

Superintendent Adam Bowen said that Zablocki-Kohler currently serves as the MTSS coordinator for Brandywine Public Schools, which means she's in charge of "giving multiple tiers of instruction at various different levels throughout the district and also instructional coach."

She was also the science teacher at Clay Adams High School in South Bend, where she oversaw International Baccalaureate courses, which Bowen said is akin to Advanced Placement ones.

"So, she's really aware of the rigor that's required in those courses and maybe she'll have some knowledge to bring some IB stuff our way," he said.

Zablocki-Kohler was a part of a second round of interviews for the position. She toured the school with students, who asked her various questions.

"I'm really excited about this opportunity - not that I want to wish away summer but I'm really excited to get here and meet the kid and parents, the community and all of the teachers and staff," Zablocki-Kohler said.

"I'm really excited about this opportunity - not that I want to wish away summer but I'm really excited to get here and meet the kid and parents, the community and all of the teachers and staff," Zablocki-Kohler said.

Board members approved the hiring of Daniel Svoboda as special education teacher, pending complete background check.

Bowen said Svoboda has over 30 years of experience and is coming from Illinois, adding that he has every endorsement there is for special education in Michigan.

Svoboda will be replacing longtime teacher Jennifer Bauer.

"We are losing to retirement a very veteran, knowledgeable teacher - I don't think we're going to skip a beat in that knowledge, I think he brings a lot to the table here," Bowen said.

School Resource Officer Brianna Schmitz gave a presentation on a safety course for E Bikes.

She said she approached Bowen about it, adding that there've been issues in the city and on district property regarding students riding through the parking lot and not paying attention to cars and riding all over the road, including on the sidewalk on Buffalo and Whittaker streets, which is against city ordinance.

The district has partnered with an online safety course, E-Bike E-Course. Students can register online through NBAS for the course, which was created by the Motorcycle Safety foundation, with Schmitz adding it's "really good for new riders." The 90-minute, state-law specific course, which is low cost for NBAS, allows Schmitz to track where students are in the course and if they've competed it, with students receiving a certificate of completion. Students go through a variety of modules covering E Bike rules, protection equipment and rules of the road, with students being required to take a quiz after each one.

Bowen said that they're currently working on language in the handbook that states that, if students have E Bikes on school property, they need to be registered and how they get registered is by showing certification to Schmitz.

Board members adopted the resolution of the Berrien Regional Education Service Agency's 26-27 General Fund Operating Budget.

The 2026–2027 Work Agreements were approved.

Board members approved administrative contracts for Daniel Caudle, Melissa Lijewski and Samuel Stine.

Board members approved rescinding the previously approved Special Meeting scheduled for June 29 and returning to the regularly scheduled June meeting calendar.

Board members approved Skillman Corporation serving as the Construction Management for all Capitol Improvement Projects for 2026-2027.

Tower Pinkster serving as the Design and Engineer for the Tennis Court Project, which won't happen until next summer, was approved.

Board members approved the proposal from Gambino Concrete for the middle/high school West Concrete Project in the amount of $65,700 and for the East Concrete Project in the amount of $170,825.

Board members approved the $4,300,000 2026 Capitol Improvement Bond.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Sponsors Agreement for the vended meals for Flowers Early Learning Head Start was approved, as well as the adult breakfast price of $3.12 in accord with 2025-26 pricing schedule.

I've been to so many Knicks playoff games, Knicks games — I live 25, 30 minutes from the arena. "I know there's going to be a whole lot of tickets I'll be asked for.
— Dylan Harper

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Raiders lose district tournament opener in softball

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders dug themselves an early hole too deep to climb out of in losing their district tournament opener 12-2 at home Saturday, May 30, against Buchanan.

In the first inning, Buchanan scored five runs mostly on walks and errors before pitcher Rylee Rudolph gave up a three-run homer over the center field fence.

Rudolph regained her control in the second inning but gave up three runs, including two more home runs.

The Raiders in the third inning scored their first run on an infield single from Laney Strother that allowed Brianna Taylor to score from third base.

Strother after advancing on the base paths scored on a single up the middle by Johnna Rochefort.

Addison Lynch followed with an infield single, but the inning ended when Rochefort was picked off third base.

Rudolph gave up no runs in the next two innings, but the Raiders were unable to further close the gap.

The Bucks won in the fifth inning on a solo home run that allowed the umpires to call the game under the Michigan High School Athletic Association's 10 run mercy rule.

Head Coach Erick Rochefort said it wasn't the way he expected his players to perform, especially at the end of the season when they should have been at their best.

"Playing a team like this, you can't give them one inning. You just can't," he said.

Rochefort put some of the blame on the home plate umpire in the first inning calling balls on some pitches that looked more like strikes.

He said Rudolph after her early struggles pitched well.

"She didn't give up. I'm proud of her," he said.

It was a disappointing loss for the Raiders, who were hoping for a win after losing to Buchanan 18-0 for the district tournament championship last year.

Buchanan wound up winning their sixth straight Division 3 district title over Brandywine 7-4.

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

Today, let's talk about family.

We all have at least one and they are extremely important to us.

Sometimes we take them for granted, sometimes they get angry with us, or we get angry with them, but in the end, they're still our family Most of the time we just love them and would do anything for them and they would return the favor.

My partners Mom (Willa) turned 100 years old last week, and family came in from half a dozen states to help her celebrate a century of life. The party was lovely, and everyone had a wonderful time.

This week it was my family's turn to celebrate, and it too was a joyful party.

My nephew (Jeff) threw a retirement party for my little brother (Mike), and about a hundred co-workers, family, and friends came to honor.

My nephew took over the family business from his father, who was married to my sister. My little brother began working with our brother-in-law just about from the beginning and this week, 50 years later, he is finally going to start taking it easy.

Because I've traveled a different path, I didn't really realize how important my brother was to the success of the family business, but the party brought things into focus for me.

Mike is one-of-a-kind.

He's a big guy, tough as nails with a huge heart and a tremendous work ethic. He's a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and brother. He was lucky enough to win the heart of his beautiful wife, and together they raised two great kids.

I was aware of those things, but not as aware of his role in, as he likes to call it, the family business.

My nephew is certainly aware.

At the retirement party, he asked some friends and coworkers to say a few words about Mike, and while he was expecting some good natured ribbing, all he got was love.

Person after person praised Mike for always being there for them, and making them feel like they were part of a family. When hard work had to be accomplished, Mike would be right by their side, working through the night if need be.

Our sister also had great things to say about Mike, praising him for being such a good man. I couldn't agree more.

So, this is us.

A mother and father of humble beginnings raising two girls and two boys that married wonderful spouses had seven wonderful children that had thirteen wonderful children.

There has been a lot of heartbreak along the way, and a whole lot of joy too. Because my parents and my big sister have passed on, by default it was up to me to be the patriarch of the family, but a few years ago I passed that torch to my brother Mike.

My wife and Jeff's wife (Sue & Melissa) have also passed on and are irreplaceable but Amy and Karen have been welcome additions to the group.

Charles Kuralt said, "The love of family and the admiration of friends is much more important than wealth and privilege."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

CHURCH OF THE MEDIATOR HOLDING MEDIATOR MARKET THIS WEEKEND

The Mediator Market, a Harbor Country marketplace, with local artisans, antiques, collectables, attic treasures, baked goods, refreshments, and more will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 6, at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator at 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Michigan.

This year, vendors will be selling crocheted Afghan blankets, socks, and pillows; constructed metal maquettes; original artwork; handcrafted cards; watercolor and acrylic paintings; upcycled and repurposed jewelry and clothing items; mixed media art pieces; books; collectibles; handcrafted jewelry; antiques; antique jewelry; and vintage vases.

There will also be the annual bake sale and church rummage sale at the same time. Be sure to stop by for a soft pretzel from Ben's Pretzel Truck. — STAFF REPORTS

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UNION PIER • MICHIGAN

New Buffalo students given life lessons, encouragement at graduation

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Like the posted agenda students face at the beginning of her classes, New Buffalo High School Math Teacher Patricia Newton gave the Class of 2026 a loose agenda, or roadmap, for navigating their adult lives at their graduation Friday, May 29, in the school's Gold Gym.

One agenda bullet point, "Do You Know How Much Condiments Cost?", outlined Newton's first experience living on her own after college and landing a teaching job – which, she said, was "near impossible," in the 1990s. Traveling to her "efficiency apartment" ("one of those where the bed was in the kitchen") in North Carolina, her parents brought cold cuts, bread and chips; however, they were surprised that Newton didn't have butter in her refrigerator.

"Do you know how much condiments cost?" is what Newton shot back at her parents when they questioned it, adding they thought that was "hilarious."

"There are some fantastic freedoms that come with it (adulting) starting with being able to use the restroom without asking a teacher's permission – but it also comes with some hidden costs," Newton said.

Another bullet point, "There is No Perfume That Can Hide Your Air of Desperation," advised students to "know your value in relationships," whether romantic or with family and friends and co-workers. "Crying Uncontrollably in a Culver's Parking Lot" recounted she and her son crying over what a friendly employee in the drive-through, who Newton guessed faced struggles daily, said to them: "You never know what folks are going through and to make someone smile or laugh gives my life purpose."

"My advice for you graduates: Lean into kindness, generosity and empathy for others," Newton said.

Newton repeated her Friday afternoon mantra to the seniors: "Remember to make good choices – people care about you."

New Buffalo High School Principal Tracy Ripley, who will be retiring after this school year and became principal when the students were freshmen, said she was "honored to be with you this evening to celebrate the accomplishments of this amazing class."

Bianca Ilescas-Villa gives the Senior Address

Lucas Forker receives his diploma from class advisors

Lucas Forker poses with his Athlete of the Year trophy

Featured speaker Patricia Newton bestows adulting lessons upon the students

Senior Class Co-Presidents Bianca Ilescas-Villa and Nick Haskins pass the Totem Pole to Junior Class Co-President August Johnson

Jack Smith and Jackson Neubauer reflect on sophomore year

Bianca Ilescas-Villa and David Sheldon lead the turning of the tassels

Students ride down Clay Street in the traditional parade

Graduates play one last time with the High School Band

Angelina Bryk receives her diploma from class advisers Christina Beushausen and Matthew Bayley

Francesca Pawlowski hugs Matthew Bayley while Christina Beushausen looks on

The Class of 2026 toss their caps in the air in celebration

Senior Scholars are recognized

Brysun Perry recalls freshman year

High school principal Tracy Ripley introduces the class

Kayden Hall and Angelina Bryk reflect on junior year

Students pose by the elementary school

Nick Haskins and David Sheldon reflect on senior year

The 35-member class includes 13 Senior Scholars, 20 students in the National Honor Society, 11 students with a STEM Endorsement, five students with a Seal of Biliteracy and one CTE Construction Trades Student of the Year. The class has collectively earned 217 college credits and another potential 105 college credits as they await AP scores to arrive in July, with 71% of the class having earned at least one college level course. The class has helped the school be ranked the 34th best public high school in the State of Michigan out of 955, according to US News and World Report.

"To say that the Class of 2026 is outstanding is an understatement," Ripley said.

New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education President Denise Churchill said that the students are graduating into a "world that will not stand still," adding that their generation was the first to grow up with "your lives lived so much online."

Now, students are stepping into a world "being reshaped by Artificial Intelligence – tools, she said that can "write your essays, generate your art, answer your questions, drive your cars and even mimic human connection."

This isn't something to fear but to be faced with "clear eyes."

"Your education has prepared you for more than content. The skills that matter most now are the ones no algorithm can replicate: your judgment, your empathy, your creativity, your courage," she said.

Bianca Ilescas-Villa, who gave the Senior Class Address, said that she felt privileged to grow up with the class, which allowed her to "make memories since they day I started preschool."

Looking at her classmates, she still remembers the "youngest version of ourselves," followed by the "awkward stages of us growing up at different rates:" changing voices, growing out of their "baby faces" and getting "crazy tall."

Ilescas-Villa said she herself was once the "quietest kid that there was;" now, she was standing there giving a speech at their graduation.

"This is the last time we're going to be here together like this…Nothing stays the same so celebrate everything you've done - no matter what we do, appreciate every step even though it's hard to and never lose yourself in the process," she said.

The senior scholars include Jaden Beckman, Madison Dodge, Nolan Garrison, Max Gotcher, Nicholas Haskins, Charlotte Humphrey, Isai Lopez, Jackson Neubauer, Samantha Newton, Francesca Pawlowski, Jeremy Rainwater, Fallyn Reber and Jackson Smith.

The Class of 2026 includes: Angelina Bryk, Isabella Dixon, Benjamin Elder, Lucas Forker, Kayden Hall, Bianca Ilescas-Villa, Trevor James, Aaron Joseph, Gabriel Medina, Uriah Moore, Brysun Perry, Corey Peterman, Jennifer Pokuta, Connor Semenchuk, Nicole Semenchuk, David Sheldon, Dulce Tomas-Huerta, Samuel Tripp, Teoman Uras, Kyle VanHook, Brianna Wingard and Nicholas Wolfe.

What's Happening, Hillary?

YOUR CURATED GUIDE TO THE BEST IN NEW BUFFALO, AND BEYOND!

JUNE 4, THURSDAY:
- Harbor Country Bocce Club Open Play at Shoreline Brewery | Michigan City | 6-9PM CT [Free] – Catch this every first Thursday of the month!
- Silo Market Social at Journeyman Distillery | Three Oaks | 4-8PM [Free] – Catch this every Thursday!
- The Ultimate Chaotic Comedy Experience at Burn 'Em Brewing | Michigan City | 8PM [Tickets]

JUNE 5, FRIDAY:
- Deathtrap – Dunes Theater Season Opener | Michigan City | 7PM CT [Tickets] – Check the website for more dates!

JUNE 6, SATURDAY:
- High Noon Speaker Series from the Biggest Little Baseball Museum at The Library | Three Oaks | 12PM [Free]
- Live Music at Red Top Winery 2-5PM, Round Barn Estate 12-6:30PM, Round Barn Tasting Room in Union Pier 2:30-5:30PM, Tabor Hill 2:30-5:30PM, Dablon Vineyards & Winery 3-5PM, Golden Muse Winery 5-8PM, SideYard 7PM, Sonny D's 7PM, and The Acorn at 8PM
- Comedy Night featuring Derek Richards at Round Barn Brewery & Public House | Baroda | 7PM [Tickets]
- Sunset Coast Country Dancers Workshop & Social Dance Night at Section House | Sawyer | 12-11PM [Tickets]

JUNE 7, SUNDAY:
- Radio Harbor Country Bike & Brunch | Sawyer | 9AM-1PM [Tickets]
- Wine & Wags at Round Barn Winery & Estate | Baroda | 11 am – 6PM [Cover Charge]
- Madonnarama Pride T-Dance Party at Commune + Market | Three Oaks | 3-6PM [Tickets]
- Latin Dance at River St. Joe | Buchanan | 5-7PM [Cover Charge] – Catch this every Sunday this summer!

JUNE 11, THURSDAY:
- Harbor Country Rotary Mystery Dinner | Around Harbor Country | 6PM [Tickets]
- Community Patriotic Sing-Along with the Harbor Country Singers at School of American Music | Three Oaks | 6:30PM [Free]
- Jason Carter Band with Bobcat Opossum at The Acorn | Three Oaks | 8PM [Tickets]

JUNE 12-14, FRIDAY-SUNDAY:
- Three Oaks 74th Annual Flag Day Weekend will include various activities all weekend long. Check online for the full line-up!

JUNE 12, FRIDAY
- Yoga at Lavender Bliss Flower Farm | Bridgman | 9AM [Tickets] – Catch this Fridays all summer!
- Pride Paddle at the New Buffalo Boat Launch | 3PM [Tickets]
- Cars, Guitars & Cider at Peat's Cider Social | Stevensville| 6-9PM [Free]

JUNE 13, SATURDAY:
- Neighbor by Neighbor Founder's Day Brunch Fundraiser | Three Oaks | 11:30AM-2PM [Tickets]
- Rosé All Day at Tabor Hill Winery | Baroda | 12-7PM [Free]
- Harbor Country Bocce Club 2V2 Tournament at Haymarket Brewery | Bridgman | 10:30AM-6PM [Register to play, Free to watch]
- Buchanan Jazz and Blues Festival | Downtown Buchanan | 1-10PM [Free] - See live music in Buchanan Thursdays & Saturdays all summer.
- Garden Party at Fernwood | Buchanan | 2-5PM [Tickets]
- Watershed Ramblers at Shoreline Brewery | Michigan City | 3-6PM CT [Cover Charge]

A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

My first real mistake...

I worked hard during my time at DIC. But I was also cautious, as I'd come to realize while what we were doing was creative, there were also political overtones.

Dispensing with Sandy Fries and Jeff Rose were necessary and calculated moves I'd made. The delivery schedules were either in jeopardy or moving way too slow. But in both cases I knew I was on solid ground since I made sure I had support from Kevin and Lori before I made my moves.

But now I'd made a major gaffe. I wanted the VP of Creative Affairs job so badly that I failed to honor the chain-of-command. For an Air Force veteran this was an egregious mistake and one that I didn't even realize I had made until after I'd made it.

The day after Robby was installed as VP, Creative Affairs, I went to Lori's office to deliver one of my Lady Lovely Locks and the Pixietails scripts. I was enjoying writing for the show and I was enjoying the script fees. My Caribbean cruise was getting the closer, so the extra money was really going to help.

Clueless, I sauntered into Lori's office and put my script on her desk, asking, "What do you think of our new VP, Creative Affairs?" Without looking up from the script she was reading, in an even voice she said, "He's Andy's friend. Andy's the president of the company, so it's his call."

Until that moment it hadn't occurred to me I'd broken the chain-of-command by going over Lori's head, directly to Andy with my request for the position. Worse, it never occurred to me Lori was vastly more qualified for the position than the relatively new writer I – or, for that matter, Robby London – was. Ego can be a dangerous thing. Finally, it never occurred to me how disappointed and hurt Lori would be that she didn't received the offer from Andy.

It's taken me thirty-nine years to muster the courage to apologize to Lori...which is exactly what I did in a text, pausing while I was in the middle of writing this column. To her enduring credit, she graciously accepted my long overdue apology.

For the present things were going well, and I contented myself with that. I was writing story springboards when Mert Rich stopped by my office. Bobby had left earlier, so we were alone. Mert was still glum, convinced Andy was going to fire him any minute. He slumped down in Bobby's chair, saying after he was fired he'd head back to Michigan and see if he could get his old job as a clothing salesman.

Then, barely raising his voice, Mert absently said something that went completely against the grain of how he looked and felt. "Brian got a call from Cheers. They want to meet with us tomorrow." For me it was as if a thunderclap erupted right over the studio.

"Cheers?! You're joking!" Mert explained he and his writing partner, Brian Pollack, had written a spec script for Cheers months ago. Writers write spec scripts for a series, without getting a fee, as a sample of their writing. I told Mert it was amazing he'd gotten a call for a meeting. Cheers was the number three series on television.

Mert pooh-poohed it, guessing they wanted him and Brian to do some script doctoring on an existing script. I wished him luck and watched him slink from my office. I left for home, having no idea about the nightmare I'd encounter there.

HOROSCOPE

JUNE 4-10, 2026

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

The stars will be throwing you a curve ball with a silver lining, this week. If you are expecting a package or some kind of endorsement, it will likely be delayed. Curious how you can work things out, before the needed part arrives or the approval is given; provides you with backup for later.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

This is the time to get more hands on with growing and sustaining your resources. Get more involved in saving money and actively work to cut corners. Don't get caught up in purchasing big ticket items just to make things look good on the surface. Dig deeper and plan for the future.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

The energy coming your way this week could be tricky. On one hand, you may have a hard time figuring out exactly how you fit into certain situations with certain people. While on the other you, may feel uber obligated even if it's not your responsibility; definite identity crisis of sorts.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

This is the time to eliminate those things that you are holding onto that have no purpose or have become worn out. This includes people and habits as well as, thought processes that promote self-doubt. Expand on things that improve your existence, not those that invalidate your talents or gifts.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

The stars will be providing you with information from some very strange or unusual sources. Either there is an element of complete surprise or a feeling that what you're hearing is in line with, what you had anticipated but exceeds what you had expected to hear about a friend or close associate.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

You will be dealing with a lot of forms and documents over the next couple of weeks and unfortunately the vibe from the cosmos will make you forgetful, making it likely to misplace or loose necessary information. Be sure to make extra copies to keep in an envelope safe and tucked away at home.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

The vibe radiating from the stars this week will make it difficult to do things without cooperation or help. This is not the time to go it alone or try to prove that you can do things on your own. Use your natural talent of bringing people together and your ability to work well with others.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Be aware that the energy coming your way this week is hitting in the area of your chart where you are required to harness the energy of others, in order to regenerate your sense of self or your resources. There may be some stumbling blocks in the way now, as you try to join the collective.

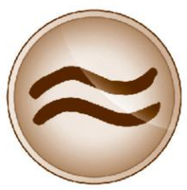
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

The stars will be sending you back to the past in the relationship department, over the next couple of weeks. Be ready to experience some of the same of what you had before, but be ready to get a renewed sense of attachment or obligation in someone else's personal situation.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

It's time to get things spruced up and ready for prime time. Get that list of chores you keep putting off and make it happen. Whether it is cleaning the garage or painting the bathroom vanity, knuckle down and do the hardest or more tedious tasks first. Once you get moving it will all fall in line.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Approach the week with a hands-off approach. Let's things that you have already put into motion over the past month, grow or become more established on their own. This is the time to utilize your mental powers and connect through an intuitive process. It's just a thought away.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

There is a definite wonky-ness to the week ahead. Be aware that things on the home-front will start to act up or not run properly. Try turning things off and waiting three weeks. Let this energy pass before you get overly aggressive in fixing it. Most issues will have a tendency to work themselves out.

Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact. Everything we see is a perspective, not the truth. — *Marcus Aurelius*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

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		2		4		5	8	
					1	3	7	
	2				7			
5		4		6		7		
	3		5					
4		6						
		7	3					
	8		1	7				

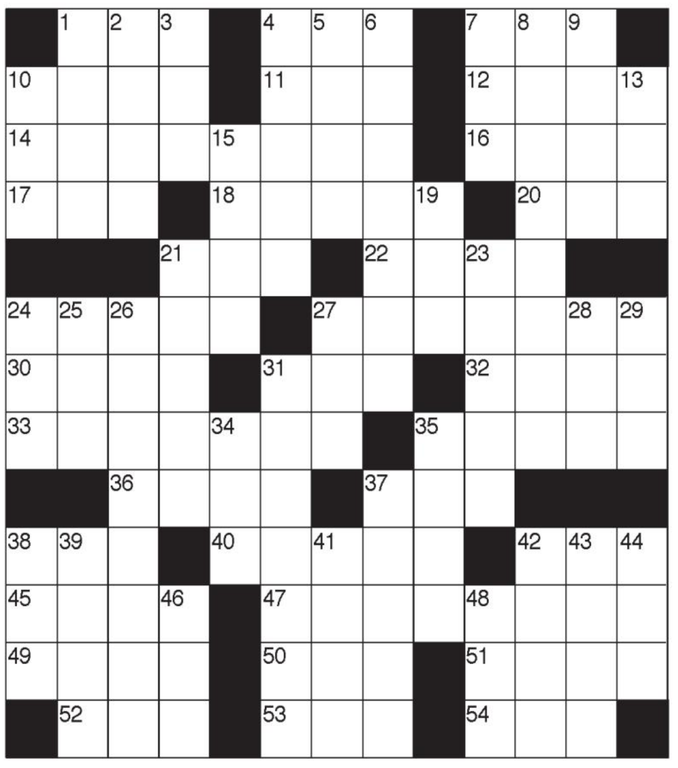
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Tally
4 Basketball Assn. of America
7 Monkey
10 Jason's ship
11 Imitate
12 Famous zeppelin
14 Despot
16 Jutelander
17 Poetess Lowell
18 Narrow
20 Prohibit
21 Swed. county
22 Old-time firing pin
24 Grave
27 Toy
30 Ring of light
31 Berne's river
32 Medicinal herb
33 Proportionally assess
35 State (Ger.)
36 Anthology (abbr.)
37 Exclamations of delight
38 Hebrew letter
40 Comedy
42 "The Jungle Book" python
45 Feed the kitty
47 Hindu queen
49 Not (Lat.)
50 Turk. title
51 Religious image
52 Compass direction
53 Serum (pref.)
54 Sheep's cry

DOWN

1 Neat
2 Agency (abbr.)
3 Fly larva
4 Stick
5 Apocrypha (abbr.)
6 Air supply
7 Signed (abbr.)
8 Strauss opera
9 Sayings (suf.)
10 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)
13 Marsh
15 Axillary
19 54 (Rom. numeral)
21 Discover
23 Scand. people
24 Drain
25 Possessive pronoun
26 Keeler (2 words)
27 No (Scot.)
28 Poly. beefwood
29 But
31 Uncle of Jason
34 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (abbr.)
35 Afr. tree
37 Pickled bamboo shoots
38 Defiant shout
39 Son of Judah
41 Choler
42 N.Z. parrot
43 Wild ox
44 Own (Scot.)
46 Gelderland city
48 Cut of beef



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Semi-truck rollover accident causes six-hour Highway 12 closure

A single semi-truck rollover injury accident closed U.S. Highway 12 westbound near I-94 and the Exit 4 off ramp for over six hours the morning of Wednesday, June 3.

According to a press release made by Lt. Thad Chartrand of the Berrien County Sheriff's Office, upon arrival, first responders found the driver trapped inside the cab that was lying on the driver's side.

"The semi-truck was pulling a double dump-trailer that was full of coal headed to Burns Harbor, Indiana to make a delivery," the release said.

The driver, 67-year-old Billy Gibbs of Southgate, Michigan, was freed from the wreckage and transported to Franciscan Hospital for treatment. The Sheriff's Office "found out that Gibb's injuries were significant in that he was air lifted to University of Chicago Medical Center for advanced treatment."

At the time of the release, Gibbs remains in critical condition.

While investigators believe the cause of the crash was due to speed, indicators from Medic are that Gibbs may have suffered a medical emergency while driving, which caused him to go too fast trying to navigate the exit ramp curves.

Agencies involved were Berrien County Sheriff's Office, New Buffalo City Police, Pokagon Tribal PD, MDOT, Medic 1 Ambulance, New Township Fire Department and Chikaming Township Fire. — STAFF REPORTS

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STROLL, SIP, SHOP + SWING out back at Journeyman Distillery from 4-8p ET.

WEEKLY | LIVE MUSIC | THREE OAKS, MI
From 6-8p ET, live music heads to Journeyman Distillery for select dates this summer.

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS | SUMMER MUSIC LIVE | VALPARAISO, IN
Live music and good company come together under the open sky starting at 6:30p CT.

JUNE 19 | WINSTON A. FOX RELEASE DINNER WITH ST ELMO | VALPARAISO, IN
Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating the hometown release of Winston A. Fox, a bold new rye whiskey inspired by the legendary fox mascot of St. Elmo Steak House.

JUNE 21 | FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH | THREE OAKS, MI & VALPARAISO, IN
Treat Dad to craft cocktails and a family brunch, starting at 10a (Local Time).

JUNE 28 | GREENS & SCREENS: CADDYSHACK, WITH VICKERS THEATER | THREE OAKS, MI
Tee up for a laid-back night of putting, pours, and laughs as we bring the green to life before a special screening of Caddyshack.

MONTHLY STARTING JUNE 28 | JAZZ SESSIONS | VALPARAISO, IN
A new intimate live music series celebrating some of the finest jazz artists from Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland.

JULY 11 | AMERICON | VALPARAISO, IN
CELEBRATE THE AMERICAN SPIRIT! A full day of homegrown fun bringing the neighborhood together in celebration of U.S. culture and our Midwest roots. Featuring *Small Town*—A John Mellencamp Experience, at 6:30p CT.

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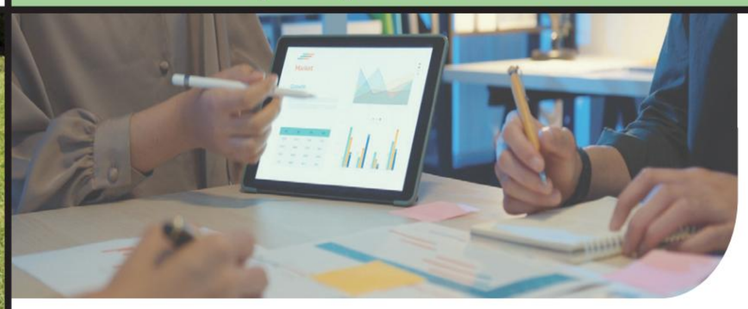

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OBITUARIES

Alexis Renbarger
1951-2026

Alexis Renbarger,77, of Three Oaks, died peacefully, Thursday, May 28, 2026, in the comfort of her husband's presence.

Her life began February 2, 1951 in Coloma, Michigan, the youngest of two children born to Norman and Hattie Carrothers. She married Jack Renbarger June 22, 1980 in Three Oaks.

Alexis was a loving and caring wife. She enjoyed good music, bible study and worship at Real Life Community Church. Alexis was very compassionate

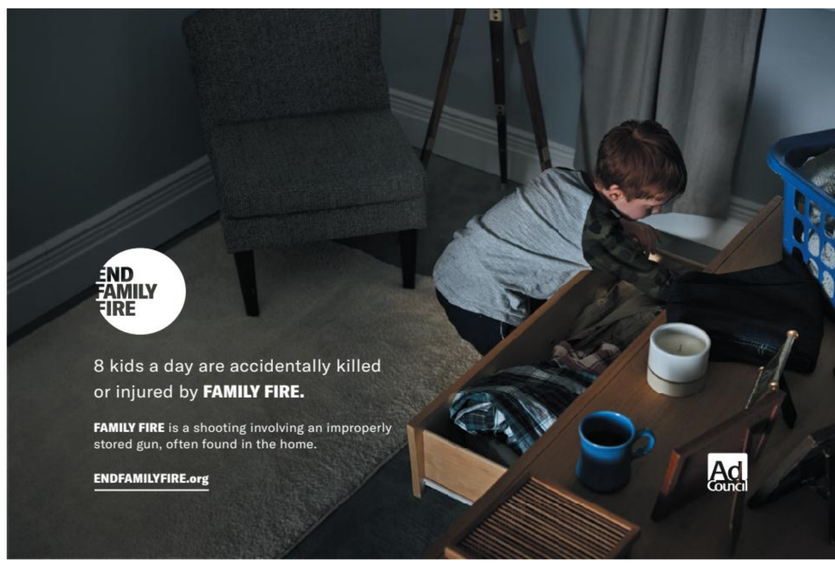
Alexis will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her beloved husband of 46 years, Jack Renbarger.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her sister Alice Bacanti.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, June 6, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at Real Life Community Church,12 Michigan Street East, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128.

Alexis will be laid to rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.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To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

THE VAGUS NERVE *(Part 1 of 2)*

The human body possesses an intricate, super highway system that connects the brain to your internal organs. This networking is called the Vagus nerve. Us Naturopathic doctors refer to it as the "Motor" nerve meaning that nothing in the body performs correctly unless this motor is in top shape.

It dictates how we react to stress and is the cornerstone of the parasympathetic nervous system. The vagus nerve is the Chief commander of the parasympathetic pathway that controls involuntary functions like heart rate, breathing, and digestion. Your entire body can be relaxed by targeting the vagus nerve

It is the longest and most complex of the 12 cranial nerves. It's Latin name means "wandering." A fitting title for a nerve that meanders down through the neck, chest, and deep into the abdomen. This is the Gut/Brain connection.

The nerve starts at the brainstem and has many branches. It I a bidirectional communication pathway, meaning it doesn't just send commands from the brain downward, it constantly collects data from the organs and transmits that information back up to the brain. About 90% of the nerve fibers in the vagus nerve are sensory. It tells the brain what is happening in the body's internal environment. It reports Mood, Mucus and saliva production, Skin and muscle sensations, speech, taste, even urine output!

When a crisis hits, the sympathetic nervous system triggers the "fight-or-flight" response, flooding the body with cortisol and adrenaline. Once the danger passes, the vagus nerve steps in to hit the brakes. It releases a neurotransmitter hormone which tells the body it is safe to relax. This shift initiates the "rest-and-digest" state, allowing the body to recover, repair, and conserve energy.

Heart Rate: It directly modulates the heart's pacemaker, lowering the heart rate and blood pressure to promote calmness.

Digestion: It signals the stomach and intestines to contract (peristalsis) to move food through the digestive tract, while also stimulating the production of stomach acid and digestive enzymes.

Immune Response: The vagus nerve plays a crucial role in reducing systemic inflammation. It senses inflammatory proteins and sends signals to downregulate the immune system's inflammatory response.

Reflex Actions: It controls involuntary muscles in the pharynx and larynx, managing critical reflexes like swallowing, coughing, and vomiting.

Because the vagus nerve extensively supplies the gut, it serves as the physical foundation of the gut-brain axis. This explains why emotional stress often manifests as physical symptoms like butterflies in the stomach, nausea, or digestive distress. You actually Feel emotion in the gut.

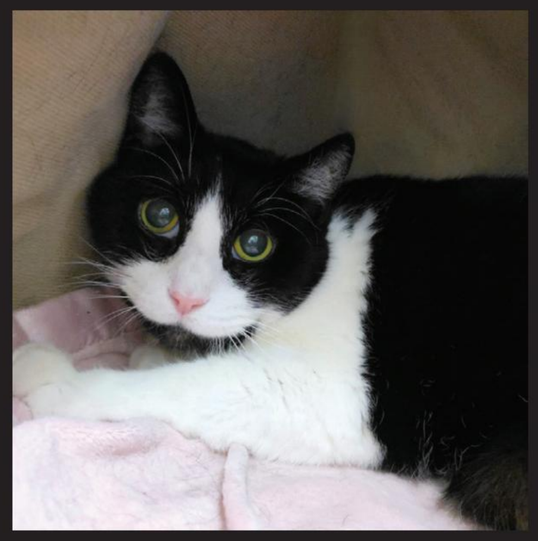
A well functioning vagus nerve is tied to high vagal tone. People with high vagal tone can transition quickly from a stressful state back to a calm one, showing greater emotional resilience, better blood sugar regulation, and lower risks of chronic inflammation.

The vagus nerve is the bridge between the mind and the body, that quiet the storms of stress, and keep the vital organs performing in perfect harmony. We have a huge responsibility to keep it healthy.

See next weeks column for how to tone and repair a damaged Vagus Nerve.

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.

PET OF THE WEEK



TROUBLE

Trouble is no "trouble" at all. He prefers a quiet home, spending time with you, or catnaps in his crate. Trouble is a year old, weighs about 13 pounds, and is neutered. Gentle affection and soothing voices make Trouble comfortable. If you're an introvert, meet your new partner. Trouble could learn to be around other cats, but probably wouldn't mind being the lone one. Make Trouble part of your home.

AVAILABLE AT THE MICHIANA HUMANE SOCIETY

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

3	7	5	9	8	2	1	4	6
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PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
High School & Middle School Corridor Locker Replacement

Issue Date: June 3, 2026
Proposal Due Date: June 17, 2026
Project Location: New Buffalo Middle/High School
Owner: New Buffalo Area Schools (NBAS)
Contact: Mark German, Director of Operations
Email: mgerman@nbas.org
Phone: 269-469-6017

1. Project Overview
New Buffalo Area Schools (NBAS) is soliciting proposals from qualified contractors for the furnishing, delivery, removal, and installation of corridor lockers at both the High School and Middle School campuses during Summer 2026.

The intent of this project is to replace aging corridor lockers with new heavy-duty steel lockers that meet district specifications and improve functionality, durability, and accessibility.

For a full overview of the district, including project objectives and scope of work, visit: www.nbas.org/page/our-district

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New Buffalo's Chris Beushausen winner of 'Outstanding Direction in a Musical' at WAVE Awards

Chris Beushausen was the winner of the Outstanding Direction in a Musical" award for the New Buffalo Middle/High School's spring production of "The Wizard of Oz at the fifth annual WAVE Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theatre at the Mendel Center Jenkins Theatre on the Benton Harbor Campus, 2755 E. Napier Avenue, Wednesday, May 20.

Also nominated from New Buffalo were Lloyd Whitmyer for the Outstanding Lighting Design in a Musical award; Deb Rancatore and Eliza Zook for Outstanding Costume Design in a Musical Flying Monkeys, & Winkies, and Jitterbugs... Oh, my!" for the Featured "Special" Award; The Munchkins for the Outstanding Featured Ensemble in a Musical; Wicked Witch of the West / Mrs. Gulch- Bianca Ilescas-Villa and Professor Marvel / Oz - Aaron Ilescas-Villa for the Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical; and Dorothy Gale – Angelina Bryk for the Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical.

Christina Beushausen receives her Best Direction in a Musical award

The Munchkins perform a dance during the spring production of The Wizard of Oz

There were 13 local schools that participated in the awards.

This year, the WAVE Awards had grown to include students and arts educators from Berrien, Van Buren, and Cass Counties in Michigan and St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties in Indiana. The participating schools were evaluated by 10 adjudicators, and about 890 students participated in the musicals that were reviewed.

"When we launched the WAVE Awards five years ago, we dreamed of creating something that would unite and elevate high school musical theatre across our community, and the growth we've seen over these years is proof that dream has taken hold," said Kristopher Zook, LMC Dean of Arts & Sciences and founder of the WAVE Awards. "With more participating schools than ever before, the energy and talent on display each year is extraordinary. This event has become a true celebration of what young artists can achieve."

All nominees received an LMC Red Hawk Scholarship good for a three-credit course taken within the next four academic years and written feedback from a panel of arts professionals. The lead actor recipients also received $1,000 Sierra Loughrin Scholarships to participate in LMC Visual & Performing Arts coursework at LMC.

Loosely designed after Broadway's famed Tony Awards, the WAVE Awards recognizes, encourages, and promotes high school theater. Individuals and productions from participating schools were nominated in 14 acting and technical categories.

Wednesday's event began with red carpet arrivals, followed by the awards ceremony. Students from all participating high schools and Lake Michigan College opened the night with a combined performance of "I Hope I Get It" from "A Chorus Line," choreographed by Kelsey Trux. Concord High School performed "Bring My Baby (Brother) Home" from "Freaky Friday," Edwardsburg High School performed "Honey, Honey" from "Mamma Mia!," James Whitcomb Riley High School preformed the title song from The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Lakeshore High School performed "One Normal Night" from "The Addams Family Musical," Paw Paw High School performed "Go, Go, Go, Joseph" from "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," Penn High School performed "All I've Ever Known/ Way Down Hadestown" from "Hadestown: Teen Edition," and South Haven High School performed "Feel It Like Everyone" from "The Olympians: An Epic Muse-ical."

Presenters included LMC President Dr. Ken Flowers, PBS/WNIT President Amanda Miller-Kelley, Education & Community Engagement Coordinator for the Wharton Center at MSU & Leader of the Sutton Foster Awards Ben English, LMC Dean of Student Life & Engagement Melissa Grau, LMC Visual Art Faculty and international author/ curator, Susan Wilczak, Notre Dame Voice Faculty and international opera singer, Deborah Mayer, United Way of Southwest Michigan Campaign Relationship Coordinator Dawn Howley, Midwest Family of Southwest MI's longtime host of Moody in the Morning radio show and Publisher Emeritus of Moody on the Market Pat Moody, co-founder and conductor of the Southshore Concert Band Dale Reuss, Sasha Farber ("Dancing With the Stars"), Janel Parrish ("Pretty Little Liars" & Hallmark Channel Movies), Ciara Renée (Broadway's "Frozen," "Pippin," and "Waitress" as well as DC's "Legends of Tomorrow," "The Flash" and "Arrow" TV series), Paige Davis (TLC's "Trading Spaces" and Broadway's "Chicago" and "Beauty and the Beast"), Patrick Page (Broadway's "Hadestown"), Kathy Najimy ("Sister Act" and "Hocus Pocus" movies, "King of the Hill"). — STAFF REPORTS

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